



**Connecticut Academy of  
Physician Assistants**

Public Health Committee Testimony March 14, 2007

Re: **HB 7089 AN ACT CONCERNING SUPERVISING PHYSICIANS FOR  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS,**  
Tricia Marriott, PA-C, MPAS  
ConnAPA Legislative Chair and President-Elect

The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants is asking for the committee's support regarding HB 7089. This bill eliminates the registration requirement for physicians who supervise PAs. Currently, registration is required for the PA's supervising physician, and, as of October 1, 2006, is also required for the alternate supervising physician(s). The alternate supervising physician requirement has proved troublesome, as the definition of the "alternate" is subject to broad interpretation. Additionally, the registration requirement has been troublesome administratively for the hospitals, practice managers, and the Department of Public Health itself, as many PAs are supervised by multiple physicians, and physicians may supervise multiple PAs. The registration process remains completely paper documentation, and is not computerized for cross-referencing. The registration process is cumbersome, and does not enhance the Department's ability to monitor physician-PA practice.

As a point of clarification, this bill *does NOT* eliminate the need for a PA to have a supervising physician. By CT statute and definition, physician assistants are dependent practitioners who practice under the supervision of a physician. The concept of the Physician-PA team is the cornerstone of PA practice. Elimination of the registration requirement will not compromise the supervision requirement.

ConnAPA and the Department of Public Health have been working together to craft the language eliminating the registration requirement. This bill, in conjunction with the DPH technical revision bill, HB 7163, eliminates most of the references to the registration of the supervising physician found in statute, but not all. Additionally, we had considered requiring a written agreement between the supervising physician and the PA, to be kept on file at the practice location(s). Thus, ConnAPA respectfully requests that the committee consider amending HB 7089 to fully eliminate all requirements found in statute for registration of the supervising physician, and to add the requirement for a written agreement in lieu of registration. ConnAPA and DPH have completed model language, and are eager to work with the committee to amend this bill.